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SHIKIGAMI NO SHIRO

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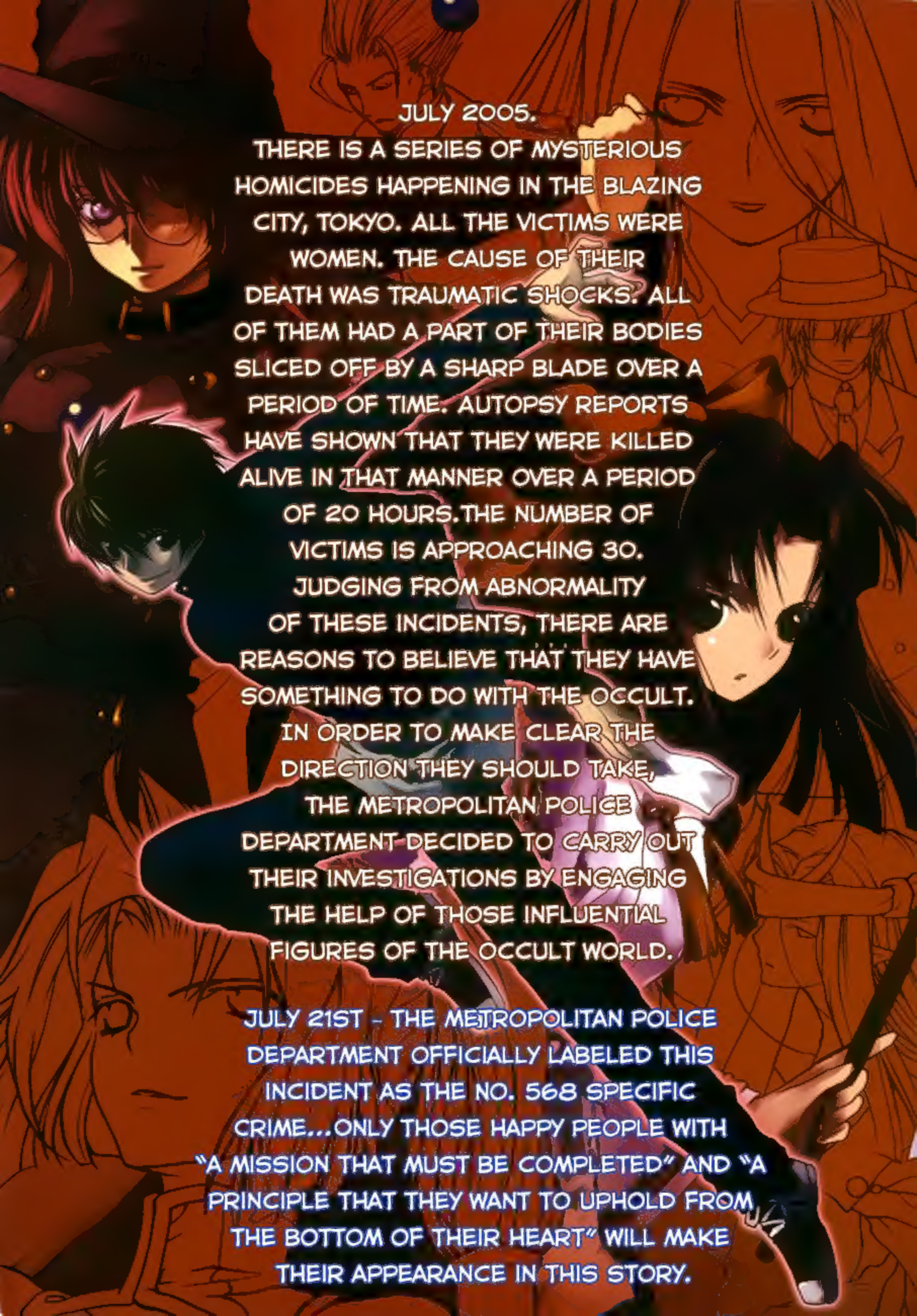
式神の城
第1巻
原作・企画：アルファ・システム/キッズステーション
脚本：是空とおる
漫画：たかなぎ優名


JULY 2005.
THERE IS A SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS HOMICIDES HAPPENING IN THE BLAZING CITY, TOKYO. ALL THE VICTIMS WERE WOMEN. THE CAUSE OF THEIR DEATH WAS TRAUMATIC SHOCKS. ALL OF THEM HAD A PART OF THEIR BODIES SLICED OFF BY A SHARP BLADE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. AUTOPSY REPORTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY WERE KILLED ALIVE IN THAT MANNER OVER A PERIOD OF 20 HOURS.THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS IS APPROACHING 30.
JUDGING FROM ABNORMALITY OF THESE INCIDENTS, THERE ARE REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE OCCULT.
IN ORDER TO MAKE CLEAR THE DIRECTION THEY SHOULD TAKE, THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT DECIDED TO CARRY OUT THEIR INVESTIGATIONS BY ENGAGING THE HELP OF THOSE INFLUENTIAL FIGURES OF THE OCCULT WORLD.
JULY 21ST - THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALLY LABELED THIS INCIDENT AS THE NO. 568 SPECIFIC CRIME...ONLY THOSE HAPPY PEOPLE WITH "A MISSION THAT MUST BE COMPLETED" AND "A PRINCIPLE THAT THEY WANT TO UPHOLD FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEART" WILL MAKE THEIR APPEARANCE IN THIS STORY.

DON'T... DON'T COME NEAR ME...

SACRIFICE YOUR BODY

FOR THE SAKE OF THE RITUAL.

DRAG

DRAG DRAG

THAT'S RIGHT...

DRAG

FUFU...

!?

NOOO OOOOO

STOP RIGHT THERE!

HUH? TRY IT IF YOU CAN!

A HUMAN... EAT YOU UP.....

MY NAME IS KUGA KOUTAROU

THE YOUNG DETECTIVE WHO ELIMINATES EVERYTHING EVIL!!!

GAA HH...

MAH MAH

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, BUT DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY!

GAA HH...

DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAN DO ANYTHING JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE HUGE!

!

HUMAN... I WANT... TO BE A HUMAN AGAIN.....

ELIMINATE ME...

GAH HH...

.....!?

HUMAN... WHAT.....?

KILL... ME

HAHA. IT'LL BE MUCH EASIER SINCE YOU'RE A HUMAN.

HUMAN... I CAN NO LONGER RETURN TO...

WOO AAHHHH

I WILL KNOCK YOU DOWN WITH MY PUNCH!!

THANK YOU

DON'T EVER BECOME A MONSTER AGAIN, ALRIGHT —!

HUMPH

T/N: THE LITERAL MEANING OF "ASHIKI YUME" IS "BAD/EVIL DREAM"

HE ACTUALLY RELEASED THE "ASHIKI YUME"* THAT'S UNDER MY CONTROL WITH HIS BARE HANDS...

IT SEEMS LIKE THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS WORLD ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF SOMETHING...

OI KUGA—
KUGA, ARE
YOU HERE?

DID HE COME TO SCHOOL TODAY...?

WHO KNOWS... DID YOU SEE HIM IN THE CLASSROOM?

HAA— HE'S ALWAYS NOT AROUND.

I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED THEN.

IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE HIM, LET HIM KNOW THAT HE HAS TO HAND IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT HIS FUTURE PLANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

OKAY.

.....

?

SIT UP

SLIDE

RUSTLE

HEY BOY, DID YOU HAVE A GOOD DREAM?

SHOULD THOSE WORDS COME OUT OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE STUDENT WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE STUDYING HARD RIGHT NOW.....?

IT'S REALLY A BAD HABIT OF YOURS TO COME AND FIND ME IN MY SCHOOL.

IS THAT UNCLE HYUUGA..?

31 VICTIMS.

I WAS STILL THINKING THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO PUT A STOP TO THAT...

YEAH YEAH

.....SO WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SENIOR DETECTIVE-SAN?

CHOK

DAMN!

WAS THAT DONE BY AN ORGANIZATION OR AN INDIVIDUAL...?

I CAN ALWAYS FEEL THE SAME "SIGNIFICANCE" HIDDEN WITHIN THOSE ATTACKS...

ALTHOUGH THEIR INTENTION IS STILL UNCLEAR..

AHH... ALTHOUGH I DID SAVE ONE OF THEM..

AS FOR ME, I SAVED THREE OF THEM BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAWN.

I'M VERY SURE THAT THOSE WERE WELL-PLANNED ATTACKS.

...IT'S COMPULSORY TO BRING ALONG YOUR IDENTIFICATION CARD WHENEVER YOU GO OUT.....

.....
ESPECIALLY DURING THE EVENING, WOMEN SHOULD NOT WALK ON THE STREET ALONE...

... ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE TIGHTENED THEIR SECURITY CHECKS...

THE POLICE HAVE ALSO STARTED TO GET INTO SERIOUS ACTIONS.

ALL WE CAN HANDLE RIGHT NOW ARE THE SMALL FRY...

DAMN IT...

AND I BELIEVE THAT... THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THEM IS "NOT A HUMAN"...

WE SHOULD JUST MAKE AN "ENTREATY TO GOD" ALREADY...

PEOPLE ARE ALSO DYING WHILE WE'RE DOING THAT.

HOWEVER, NOT ONLY ARE WE UNABLE TO FIND ANY INFORM-ATION

I'M IN SUCH A RAGE THAT I WANT TO GET THAT CULPRIT RIGHT THIS INSTANT!

IS THAT A REQUEST?

ALTHOUGH THE REQUEST WAS NOT DONE DIRECTLY...

IT SEEMS LIKE "SHINREICHOU"*, THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE ENTRUSTMENT OF THE POLICE, WANTS TO GATHER EXPERTS WITH PSYCHIC ABILITIES.

T/N: "DIVINE SPIRIT DEPARTMENT"

THE 32ND VICTIM..

BUT WE CAN'T PUT IT THAT WAY AS WELL...

.....?

HAHA.. I'M WITH YOU ON THAT ONE.

WELL, IT DOESN'T CONCERN ME ANYWAY!

SINCE I HATE THE POLICE.

YEAH..

SHIN-REICHOU... HUH?

OUKUBO.

THE NEXT ATTACK IS LIKELY TO BE IN.....

AND THE REASON?

BOY, SINCE YOU CALL YOURSELF A DETECTIVE

I'M SURE THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO INVESTIGATE SUCH A MATTER, RIGHT?

UNDER-STOOD...

NO MATTER WHAT, THESE KINDS OF THINGS REALLY TICK ME OFF!

ATTACKING WOMEN IS THE WORST THING ONE CAN DO!!

THIS TOWN S BIG... AND DEEP...

THIS CASE IS TOO MUCH FOR ME... AND THAT'S THE TRUTH.

I'M DEPENDING ON YOU, YOUNG DETECTIVE!

AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME THING AS ME.

O... OI UNCLE!

AND ALSO... I HAVEN'T REACHED THE AGE WHERE PEOPLE HAVE TO CALL ME "UNCLE".

..... DOES THAT MEAN THAT I'M NOT FIT TO BE A DETECTIVE IF I CAN'T DO WHAT HE SAYS...?

That's non-sense

HEY... FUMIKO-SAN.

RUSTLE

NO, WOULD IT BE BETTER FOR ME TO CALL YOU "SORCERESS-SAN" INSTEAD?

HUMPH. ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT IT'S BETTER IF I ASK "A SORCERESS TO PERFORM A DIVINATION "FOR ME?

SO YOU TOLD HIM THAT .. "I'M SURE THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE INVESTIGATE SUCH A MATTER"?

HAA...

HE'LL BE AWAKENED SOON...

NO, HE'S ACTUALLY IN THE PROCESS OF BEING AWAKENED.

IT SEEMS LIKE HE HASN'T FULLY AWAKENED... RIGHT?

YEAH.

THAT BOY? IS IT THE YOUNG DETECTIVE THAT YOU'VE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO RECENTLY?

ALTHOUGH I FEEL A LITTLE SORRY FOR HIM.....

TEACHER SAID THAT —

EH?

THOSE ORDINARY DAYS MIGHT BE PUT TO AN END TODAY.

THE SAME INCIDENT IS BEING REPEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

KUGA —

INDEED...

I WILL GIVE IT A PASS SINCE I WILL BE REALLY BUSY FROM NOW ON.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT...

THE FINAL SACRIFICE

IT WILL BE...

COM-PLETED TODAY.

I'VE FINALLY FOUND THE MAIN CULPRIT!!!

NOW...

HAHA... DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S UNDER BIG SISTER'S CLOTHES?

HAH, HAH.

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THAT!!

I LIKE GIRLS BUT THERE ARE SOME UNPLEASANT THINGS FOR ME TO DO RIGHT NOW!!

FOR EXAMPLE, BRINGING JUSTICE!!!

15 YEARS OLD

KOUTA-ROU.

A YOUNG DETECTIVE WHO WANTS TO ELIMINATE ALL EVILS.

MY NAME IS KUGA

AND YOU LEARNT ABOUT ONMYOUDOU* FROM YOUR GRANDFATHER...

TALISMAN?

IT'S THE WEIRD SKILL YOU USED YESTERDAY...

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

MY BEST SKILL IS MIND MANIPULATION

YOUR SENSE OF SELF SEEMS TO BE REALLY INTERESTING.

WHY... WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM –

*N: WAY OF YIN AND YANG. AN OCCULT DIVINATION SYSTEM BASED ON THE TAOIST THEORY OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS.

YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES!!

A. TO BE DEFEATED BY ME BEFORE I TIE YOU UP! B. TO BE TIED UP BEFORE I DEFEAT YOU!!

YOU'RE DAMN ANNOYING! YOU BITCH!!

BUT IT APPEARS THAT I CAN'T READ ALL YOUR THOUGHTS, HENCE IT'S DIFFICULT TO INTERFERE WITH IT.

I WONDER IF THAT'S BECAUSE... YOU'RE AN IDIOT.

HAHA.. YOU'RE REALLY AN IDIOT.

EVIL DREAMS!

CHE

THERE ARE SOME OTHER THINGS I HAVE TO DO RIGHT NOW.

I WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT AFTER YOU GROW UP A LITTLE MORE.

WAI... WAIT RIGHT THERE —

DAMN IT!

HMM..

THAT BOY... WAS HE ABLE TO SEE THE ENEMIES?

LET'S STRIKE!!

NO... I BELIEVE THAT HE COULDN'T SEE EVERYTHING. IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S STILL LACKING SOME SPIRITUAL SENSE.

IT MIGHT BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT... HE WAS ABLE TO FEEL SOMETHING.

NEVER-THELESS, THAT "BLUE FIST" OF H.S.....

WAS REALLY IN-TERESTING

YES, MADE-MOI-SELLE.

MUNCH-HAUSEN

LET ME TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY TO BE HIS TRAINER.

!?

THAT'S RIGHT THE OUTCOME OF A BATTLE IS DEPENDENT ON ONE'S POWER.

THE BOY WHO CONTROLS THE BLUE RAYS... YOU HAVE THE PROTECTION OF THE BLUE SPIRIT.

NOT GOOD

THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM...

TIGHTEN

TIGHTEN

I'M IN THE SAME PROFESSION AS HYUUGA.

MY NAME IS FUMIKO.

UWAA

AAHHH

KU... UWAAH

AH...

UNCLE'S ...!?

SO THEN... CAN YOU DO SOMETHING .....

T/N: SUMMONED SPIRITS OF AN ONMYOUJI (A JAPANESE SORCERER)

KUBO KOUTAROU

AND BECOME A SHIKIGAMI* USER...

YOU HAVE TO BE AWAKENED

PLEASE BESTOW A NAME ON ME... MY NAME...

WHAT IS... THIS VOICE...?

WHO'S THERE... YOU... ARE...

I AM A THING THAT WAS PURIFIED BY YOU

A THING THAT HAS VOWED TO OBEY YOU.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF BECOMING YOUR POWER... AND TO BECOME YOUR GUIDE...

I DON'T NEED IT.

SOMETHING THAT'S SO STRICT AND RIGID.

THE CONTRACT WILL BE COMPLETED WITH THAT!!

BOY!! HURRY UP AND NAME THE SPIRIT!

THE NAME THAT CROSSED YOUR MIND!

A NAME

.....

ZASAE-
SAN.

.....?

EVEN IF....

I WILL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE

I HAD BECOME A GHOST AND MY VOICE HAD NEVER REACHED YOU.

THE CONTRACT HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

YOU CAN USE YOUR SHIKIGAMI BY CALLING OUT HER NAME.

.....

FUU

CONTRACT? SHIKIGAMI...?

GO!!!

ALTHOUGH I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW...

ZASAE-SAN

I CAN FEEL HER PRESENCE ... JUST BESIDE ME...

IT'S TRUE THAT

HE HANDLED IT FLAWLESSLY!

ON THE WHOLE... NO

I'M GLAD THAT YOU DIDN'T SUSTAIN ANY INJURY.

UNCLE

CONGRATULATIONS ON BECOMING A PART OF US, BOY.

ALRIGHT

BUT...

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED BY THE FACT THAT A HUMAN CAN ACTUALLY FLY!

IDIOT.

I GUESS SO...

REALLY WHAT'S WITH THE CARE-FREE ATTITUDE

BUT IT'LL PROBABLY BE DANGEROUS FOR MY BODY IF WE FLY ALL THE WAY INTO THE UNIVERSE...

THE POWER FIELD OF THE SHIKIGAMI WITH THE NAME OF ZASAE...

THAT WAS REALLY AMAZING... WHAT IS THE HIGHEST POINT THAT I CAN GO?

WELL, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THIS ISN'T A SIMPLE FLYING GAME.

IN REALITY, THAT WAS MADE POSSIBLE USING THE POWER OF THE "SHIKI".

UNCLE, DO YOU HAVE A "SHIKI" TOO?

There's nothing weird

.....

He wasn't listening at all

WELL, WE CAN SKIP THE DETAILS FOR NOW.

MY...

CHE, THEY ARE STILL HERE HUH?

WE'RE GOING TO DO SOME CLEANING UP NOW.

RAT

MY PARTNER IS...

THE THUNDER

THERE'S ACTUALLY NO NEED TO FLY IN THE SKY AT ALL.

AS A DETECTIVE

SO, IT WILL BE A "PASS" FOR ME IF I CAN FLY IN THE SKY?

THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO.

HOWEVER, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO FLY WHEN IT'S NECESSARY FOR YOU TO DO SO.

I SEE IT NOW.

I UNDER-STAND IT NOW... UNCLE!

YOU'LL BE GIVEN A "PASS" AS LONG AS YOU CAN DO THAT.

I'M DEPENDING ON YOU, ZASAE-SAN!!

WHAT IS NECESSARY INVOLVES THE DECISION TO DO IT

OR NOT.

A SHIKIGAMI USER WHO CAN'T SEE HIS SHIKI.

A NEW TYPE OF USER HUH.

.....

ZASAE-SAN, GO!

SO... THAT GIRL WITH THE NAME OF "FUKIMO" IS...?

HAHAHA.. SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE WISER.

.. IF SO, I..

DON'T TELL ME THAT I WAS USED AS A DECOY!?

THAT'S MEAN...

AS I THOUGHT, THERE'S A MASTERMIND BEHIND THESE THINGS HUH!?

THAT PERSON IS A PURE-BLOOD SORCERESS.

SHE'S GOING AFTER THE MASTERMIND NOW.

THERE ARE STILL SOME IN THE AIR!?

!

HUMPH ...

OH - THEY'RE PERSISTENT. REALLY PERSISTENT.

OHHH!

ZASAE-SAN!

I WILL BLAST ALL OF YOU OFF!

HAHA
...

!

I WONDER... HOW MUCH LONGER THAT BOY CAN HOLD ON...?

SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF, ARALA CRAN.
WHEN HAVE YOU STARTED TO BE SATISFIED WITH JUST CONTROLLING THOSE LOW LEVEL SPIRITS...?

YOU KNOW, HE ACTUALLY GIVES OFF THE SCENT OF A GOOD MAN.

NO WONDER..

ARE YOU THE MENTOR OF THAT BOY?

ODETTE...!

FUMIKO...?

I'M CALLED "FUMIKO" NOW. FUMIKO. ODETTE VAN STEIN.

THAT'S RIGHT..

I'VE FOUND THE "ORE" THAT CAN BE POLISHED INTO A HERO... IS THAT REASON SUFFICIENT FOR YOU?

WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR A FEW HUNDRED YEARS... WELL, WHATEVER HAPPENED IN THIS WORLD DOESN'T CONCERN YOU, DOES IT...?

IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING IF I CAN MAKE HIM ONE OF MY PUPPETS...

ARE YOU REFERRING TO THAT BOY...?

ODETTE!
NO, "THE SKY BLUE FUMIKO"!!

"ARALA CRAN, THE LIGHT CRIMSON OF RED".

THAT BOY IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF LEARNING.
CAN YOU REFRAIN FROM GETTING INTO HIS WAY...

HUMPH... I DON'T THINK THAT BLUE IS THE STRONGEST AT ALL!

THE RITUAL HAS ALREADY BEGUN!

IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE!

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU PLANNING!

HA!

ドーン

ドーン

ドーン

LET ME SEND YOU TO YOUR DEATH WITH THE ULTIMATE MOVE OF THE RED!!

NO MORE PLAYING AROUND.

AS EXPECTED, YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING IN THE DARK.

RITUA...

SPIRITS, COME FORTH!!

THE POWERFUL SORCERY OF THE BLUE...

SORCERY HUH? INTERESTING.

IN THAT CASE, LET ME SHOW YOU.....

LISTEN TO MY ROYAL COMMAND, LET ME BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR POWER AND CAST THE MAGNIFICENT SORCERY!

IN THE NAME OF THEIR MEDIATOR, PLEASE LISTEN TO MY REQUEST OF FULFILLING THE ETERNAL CONTRACT.

ABIDING BY THE POWER OF THE MASSES, I, THE SKY BLUE FUMIKO,

THE KING OF THE MAGNIFICENT BLUE! EMITTING THOSE BLUE RAYS THAT STEM FROM THE PUREST BLAZE. YOU'RE THE STRONGEST LEGEND!

PLEASE GIVE THE SOUL DOWN THE THOUSAND LINEAGES THE PERMISSION TO GO AGAINST THE TRUTH OF THE WORLD.

AS THE LIGHT CRIMSON OF THE RED, LET ME SEE THE ABSOLUTE BEAUTY OF THE NORTH POLE.

THE BEAUTIFUL ROOT AND ORIGIN OF EVERYTHING IN EXISTENCE.

EVERY SINGLE DRIP OF THE RUSHING TORRENT IN THE MIGHTY RIVER.

RED, OH RED

SEIREISHU*

*THE HAND OF THE SPIRIT

LET IT BE COMPLETED!

JUNKETSU NO KUSARI**

** THE CHAIN OF PURITY

WELL THEN, WE ARE DONE WITH THE CLEANING UP!

HMM?

AH? I CAN ACTUALLY TEACH YOU IF YOU WANT ME TO.

WILL I BE ABLE TO DO THAT AS WELL?

IDIOT. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE

WOW... DID THAT PERSON I SAW EARLIER DO THAT...?

IT'S FIN SHED HUH...

MOST LIKELY.

I HAVE A FEELING THAT SHE ESCAPED...

DID YOU KILL HER?

EH?

IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH "ZASAE-SAN"?

IT'S ALREADY IMPOSSIBLE TO DO THAT.

THE CONTRACT ITSELF IS A "CHAIN"... HENCE THE NAME THAT IS USED TO CALL A SHIKIGAMI CAN NEVER BE CHANGED.

AH?

Me?

BY THE WAY... I'M A LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT SOMETHING.

THE NAME OF HIS SHIKIGAMI... CAN WE USE ANOTHER NAME INSTEAD?

IN ANY CASE, WE'VE FINISHED GUIDING YOU THROUGH THE BASICS.

OH!

LET'S GET ALONG FROM NOW ON, FUMIKO-TAN.

NO.

IT'S ALRIGHT SINCE YOU SAID THAT IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.

LET ME SAY THIS FIRST. I'M NOT IN CHARGE OF EDUCATING YOU ABOUT THIS ISSUE.

I'M NOT PUTTING THE BLAME ON ANYONE

AND IT'S FINE TO USE ANY NAME YOU WANT TO.

T/N: 'TAN' IS THE BABY TALK VERSION/SLANG (TYPICALLY USED BY ADULTS) OF 'CHAN'.

TAN*?

THAT NAME JUST FLASHED IN MY HEAD.

ZASAE-SAN.

. . . . . .

THAT'S THE LIMIT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR NAMING SENSE HUH...

EH? ISN'T THAT CUTER THIS WAY?

YOUNG BOY, WHAT WAS THAT FOR...

7ページ

NO I...

I SHOULD BE GOING TO SCHOOL RIGHT NOW...

SHOULD BE.

HA... HAHA HAHA!

THAT WAS REALLY SOMETHING, YOUNG BOY! LET'S HEAD FOR MY HOUSE. I WILL GIVE YOU SOME GOOD TREATS.

THIS YOUNG BOY IS... EVIL DREAM..

I AM..

A SPIRIT THAT SHOULD BE ELIMINATED.

CHAPTER 1 • END